

Common Council Meeting minutes, September 7, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

Mayor John Rawson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Council attending: A. Stevens, J. Tranberg, J. Anderson, P. Syverson, C. Ekern, D. Stephenson, J. Rawson. Others in attendance: Andrew Dannehy-TCT, Bill Warner-SEH, Josh Low-Ehlers, Kristi Smith, Neeley Balfany, David Donnelly, Andy Graff, Josh Greenwold, Debi Fremstad.

Agenda was posted on 8/31/23 at City Hall, Post Office, Waumandee Bank, & City website.

Motion by C. Ekern to approve agenda, 2nd by J. Anderson. Discussion: none. Vote: Ayes-6, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Public Comment: David Donnelly stated his complaint against Chief Johnson was never received by the Police Board. Jill Anderson has been approached by numerous people about making another east/west corridor.

Motion by P. Syverson to approve August 7, 2023 council minutes, 2nd by D. Stephenson. Discussion: none. Vote: Ayes-6, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Motion by P. Syverson to approve and place on file the minutes for the 8/15/2023 Water & Sewer Meeting, 2nd by J. Anderson. Discussion: none. Vote: Ayes-6, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Bill Warner from SEH gave update on the Broadway/Pearl project. SEH is recommending payment application #2 of \$865,132.94 be paid to A-1 Excavating. **Motion by C. Ekern to approve payment application #2 for \$865,132.94, 2nd by A. Stevens. Discussion: none. Roll call vote: D. Stephenson-yes, C. Ekern-yes, P. Syverson-yes, J. Anderson-yes, J. Tranberg-yes, A. Stevens-yes. Motion carried.**

Blair Cheese Festival would like to hang a wall mount TV at the Community Center for Bingo. **Motion by D. Stephenson to allow the Blair Cheese Festival to hang a wall mount TV in the Community Center, contingent on Town of Preston approval, 2nd by C. Ekern. Discussion: none. Vote: Ayes-6, Nays-0. Motion carried.**

Cheese Festival had no one present at the meeting to discuss the waiver.

Kristi Smith, Pool Director recapped the 2023 pool season; 15 lifeguards were hired. Ashley 4 Arts was the hardest time for getting help; maybe adjust hours next year? She suggests hiring someone local within the city; it's a good idea to stop and check on the pool frequently throughout the day. The pool had over 4000 patrons this summer with a daily average around 56, and brought in around \$22,000. City workers were very helpful.

Josh Low from Ehler's Inc stated the City needs interim financing for the Broadway street project because the state loans don't close until next year. Ehler's will reach out to local banks for the loan. **Motion by J. Anderson to approve Ehler's Inc. to get paperwork going for interim note financing, 2nd by P. Syverson. Discussion: none. Roll call vote: D. Stephenson-yes, C. Ekern-yes, P. Syverson-yes, J. Anderson-yes, J. Tranberg-yes, A. Stevens-yes. Motion carried.**

Motion made by J. Anderson to move #19, server applications, up on the agenda, 2nd by J. Tranberg. Vote: Ayes-0 6, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Server license for approval: Neeley Balfany and Kortney Parker. **Motion by J. Anderson to approve all server applications, 2nd by D. Stephenson. Discussion: none. Vote: Ayes-6, Nays-0. Motion carried.**

Mark Mickelson, of SEH was present via zoom. DNR only allowing 1 permit for project; not and either-or option. Hydraulic dredging permit was approved and received for project a few years ago. Mr. Lisowski went out and got a few bids for mechanical and there appeared to be a little lower cost. DNR more concerned with the mechanical as it does a more environmental damage with having to draw down the lake and the impacts to the wet lands. SEH wants to confirm the estimates are comparable to hydraulic and that the full scope required by DNR is covered before changing to mechanical. Estimates received were compelling and definitely worth investigating. DNR will need a noticeable difference to the dredging mechanically. **Motion by A. Stevens to approve SEH to move forward and investigate mechanical dredging on Lake Henry for a fee of up to \$10,000, 2nd by D. Stephenson. Discussion: none. Roll call vote: D. Stephenson-yes, C. Ekern-yes, P. Syverson-yes, J. Anderson-yes, J. Tranberg-yes, A. Stevens-yes. Motion carried.**

Lion in park: The office received phone calls wanting to save the park lion. Randy Hoff will repaint it with air gun; needs access to electricity. Randy will donate his time; the city would just need to buy the supplies. **Motion made by P. Syverson to refer the Park Lion to the Park Committee, 2nd by C. Ekern. Discussion: none. Vote: Ayes-6, Nays-0. Motion carried.**

Water & sewer meeting on 7/15/23-P. Syverson: Discussed the Water Treatment Plant filter system, 4 out of the 5 cells need media replacement. Recommending to go with Triple Oak to replace #2 cell as a training for Josh and Tim to do this. Around \$7200 for the training and around \$6000 for the anthracite (\$4100 if we pick up the anthracite). Each cell will take about a week. **Motion by C. Ekern to approve hiring Triple Oak for training and picking up anthracite from Red Flint, 2nd by P. Syverson. Discussion: none. Roll call vote: D. Stephenson-yes, C. Ekern- yes, P. Syverson-yes, J. Anderson-yes, J. Tranberg-yes, A. Stevens-yes. Motion carried.** Elland Reservoir concrete work. We got 2 quotes, after contacting Jones we would recommend having them do the work at \$2300. Concrete is going to help with wash out as it seems to be getting worse, eventually it would wash out under reservoir. **Motion by A. Stevens to approve hiring of Jones Concrete for Elland reservoir concrete work, 2nd by J. Tranberg. Discussion: none. Roll call vote: D. Stephenson-yes, C. Ekern-yes, P. Syverson-yes, J. Anderson-yes, J. Tranberg-yes, A. Stevens-yes. Motion carried.** Concerns regarding well #6. The gallons/minute is dropping, screens are getting plugged with iron and manganese; we will eventually have to rehabilitate. Put on agenda for next month.

Motion by C. Ekern, to approve amendment of liquor license premise for The Wildcat Saloon, 2nd by J. Tranberg. Discussion: What about David Donnelly's license? David never paid for license or picked up. Vote: Ayes-6, Nays-0. Motion carried.

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Motion by D. Stephenson, to approve 2024 Kleven Property Assessment for exterior reevaluation and 2025 for maintenance assessment, 2nd by C. Ekern. Discussion: none. Discussion: none. Roll call vote: D. Stephenson-yes, C. Ekern-yes, P. Syverson-yes, J. Anderson-yes, J. Tranberg-yes, A. Stevens-yes. Motion carried.

GEC building permit update.

Motion by C. Ekern to pay the bills, 2nd by J. Tranberg. Discussion-none. Roll call vote: D. Stephenson-yes, C. Ekern-yes, P. Syverson-yes, J. Anderson-yes, J. Tranberg-yes, A. Stevens-yes. Motion carried.

Next Common Council Meeting, Monday, October 2, 2023

Motion by J. Tranberg to adjourn at 7:52 pm, 2nd by C. Ekern. Discussion-none. Vote: Ayes-6, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Debra Fremstad, Clerk/Treasurer